

THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) A sock, according to Claim + 21, characterized in that at least one climate channel (26) is provided in the stepping area (13).
5. (Previously Presented) A sock, according to Claim 4, characterized in that the air channels (25) are provided on the inner side of the leg and/or on the outer side of the leg of the sock.
6. (Previously Presented) A sock, according to Claim 5, characterized in that the air channels (25) are connected with at least one climate channel (26) in the stepping area (13).
7. (Previously Presented) A sock, according to Claim 6, characterized in that the climate channels (26) in the stepping area (13) present an arc-shaped pattern.
8. (Previously Presented) A sock, according to Claim 7, characterized in that the climate channels (26) present partial narrowings (261).
9. (Previously Presented) A sock, according to Claim 8, characterized in that the climate channels (26) present a substantially circular cross section.
10. (Previously Presented) A sock, according to Claim 9, characterized in that the climate channels (26) are interconnected by a central channel (262).

11. (Previously Presented) A sock, according to Claim 10, characterized in that air channels (25) and the climate channels (26) are made of the same material.

12. (Previously Presented) A sock, according to Claim 11, characterized in that the air channel (25) consists of a climate regulating cross knitted fabric.

13. (Previously Presented) A sock, according to Claim 12, characterized in that the climate channel (26) consists of a climate regulating cross knitted fabric.

14. (Previously Presented) A sock, according to Claim 13, characterized in that sock is fitted with an X-Cross bandage (24).

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A sock, according to Claim + 21, characterized in that the air channels (25) are provided on the inner side of the leg and/or on the outer side of the leg of the sock.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A sock, according to Claim 17, characterized in that at least one climate channel (26) is provided in the stepping area (13).

20. (Previously Presented) A sock, according to Claim 19, characterized in that the air channels (25) are connected with at least one climate channel (26) in the stepping area (13).

Please add claims 21-24.

21. (New) A sock for use in sports activities comprising a foot part and a shaft extending therefrom, the foot part having a toe portion, a heel portion, and a stepping portion

(13) between the heel portion and the toe portion, the stepping portion including an arch (131) that is directed outward and is turned against the inward arch of the user, the arch providing a rounded external contour (132) and being constructed and arranged to support the rolling motion of the foot during walking or running.

22. (New) A sock as in Claim 21, wherein the arch is formed from padding affixed to the stepping portion (13).

23. (New) A sock as in Claim 22, wherein the padding can be of different thicknesses.

24. (New) A sock as in Claim 23, wherein the padding is thicker in the central portion of the arch and is tapered at the ends adjacent the heel portion and the toe portion, respectively, to continue the rounded external contour of the sock.